AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A composite structure for a data storage device comprising:

a base having a first side and a second side, the first side having a patterned surface structure for assembly of a drive motor and a head actuator ~~and the second side having a patterned surface~~ and including at least one aperture extending through the base between the first side and the second side;

a printed circuit board including at least one raised circuit component elevated from a board portion of the printed circuit board and the at least one raised circuit component extending into the at least one aperture and forming a space between an edge surface of the at least one aperture and the at least one raised circuit component ~~on the second side of the base~~; and

an adhesive portion in the at least one aperture having a thickness that extends between the first and second sides of the base and a width that extends between the edge surface of the at least one aperture and the at least one raised circuit component to fill ~~ing a~~ the space between the at least one raised circuit component and ~~an~~ the edge surface of the at least one aperture of the base.

2. (previously presented) The structure according to claim 1 and comprising an adhesive layer between the base and the board portion of the printed circuit board bonding the base to the printed circuit board.

3. (previously presented) The structure according to claim 2 wherein the adhesive layer between the base and the board portion forms a first adhesive layer and comprising a second adhesive portion between the printed circuit board and a shield to connect the shield to the printed circuit board.

4. (previously presented) The structure according to claim 1 wherein the printed circuit board has

an upright connector and comprising an adhesive portion between the upright connector and an edge surface of the base.

5. (previously presented) The structure according to claim 1 wherein an overall thickness of the structure is less than 3.3 mm.

6. (previously presented) The structure according to claim 5 wherein the base has a portion having a thickness of between 0.2 mm and 0.3 mm.

7. (currently amended) A composite structure for a data storage device comprising:

a base having a ~~patterned surface including a motor hub portion and a head actuator portion~~first side and a second side;

a printed circuit board ~~including a board portion and at least one component extending from the board portion forming an upright surface of the printed circuit board~~spaced from the base to form a gap between the printed circuit board and the base;

a shield spaced from the printed circuit board to form a gap between the printed circuit board and the shield; and

a first adhesive portion filling the gap between the printed circuit board ~~portion~~ and the base to connect the printed circuit board to the base, and a second adhesive portion filling the gap between the ~~upright surface of the~~ printed circuit board and ~~an upright surface of the base~~the shield to connect the shield to the printed circuit board.

8. (currently amended) The structure according to claim 7 wherein the base includes at least one aperture and the printed circuit board includes at least one circuit component extending into the at least one aperture ~~to define the upright surface of the base and the upright surface of the printed circuit board~~ and comprising an adhesive portion in the at least one aperture between an

edge surface of the at least one aperture and the at least one circuit component.

9. (cancelled).

10. (cancelled)

11. (previously presented) The structure according to claim 7 wherein an overall thickness of the structure is less than 3.3 mm.

12. (previously presented) The structure according to claim 11 wherein the base has a portion having a thickness of between 0.2 mm and 0.3 mm.

13. (currently amended) A structure comprising :

a base ~~including a motor hub portion, an actuator portion~~including a base portion having a base thickness of about 0.3 mm or less and at least one aperture; and

means for reinforcing the base portion ~~at least one aperture of the base~~ to form a stiff support structure.

14. (currently amended) The structure according to claim 13 wherein the means for reinforcing includes an adhesive portion ~~filling~~ in the at least one aperture of the base.

15. (cancelled)

16. (previously presented) The structure according to claim 13 and comprising a printed circuit board having at least one component projecting into the at least one aperture of the base and the means for reinforcing comprises an adhesive portion between the at least one component projecting into the at least one aperture of the base and an edge surface of the at least one aperture.

17. (previously presented) The structure according to claim 14 wherein the adhesive portion is an epoxy adhesive.

18. (previously presented) The structure according to claim 1 wherein the adhesive portion is an epoxy adhesive.

Claims 19-20 (cancelled).

21. (currently amended) The composite structure of claim ~~1~~8 wherein the at least one aperture extends through the base between the first side and the second side of the base.

22. (currently amended) The composite structure of claim 7 wherein the ~~at least one component is a~~printed circuit board includes at least one connector and comprising ~~the second~~a third adhesive portion ~~is~~ between ~~the~~an upright surface of the base and the connector.

23. (currently amended) The ~~composite~~ structure of claim 13 wherein the at least one aperture extends between opposed sides of the base.

24. (currently amended) The structure according to claim ~~1~~413 wherein the structure further comprises a printed circuit board and the means for reinforcing comprise~~s~~ a layer of adhesive between the printed circuit board and the base.

25. (new) The structure of claim 24 wherein the means for reinforcing further comprising a shield and an adhesive portion in a gap between the shield and the printed circuit board.